



Health Care Association of Michigan

Kim Ringlever

Health Care Association of Michigan Testimony on HB5762

House Senior Health, Security and Retirement Committee

April 18, 2006

On behalf of the Health Care Association of Michigan's 220 nursing homes, I have been asked to oppose House Bill 5762.

Nearly all state laws governing nursing homes are today consolidated under the Public Health Code. HCAM members prefer this consolidation and believe it makes it easier for providers to reference state law.

HCAM members also believe this legislation will be used as a vehicle to increase the number of unfunded nursing home mandates at a time when nursing home care is underfunded by about \$40 million. Again, we are well aware that this is not the intention of the sponsor or the committee but that does not diminish the fact that various stakeholders do have an interest in amending this bill.

HCAM appreciates the consideration this committee has given to our concerns, but opposes the inclusion of nursing homes in this stand alone act. The function of a nursing home is primarily medical in nature and is appropriately regulated in the state's most prominent health care statute—the Public Health Code.

House Bill 5762 duplicates at a time when nursing homes are trying to streamline and provides an opportunity for error, amendments and changes that providers cannot afford. Therefore, HCAM urges this committee not to move forward with this legislation.